

## CHAPTER 2.9.X.

### TROPILAELOPS INFESTATION OF HONEY BEES

#### Article 2.9.X.1.

For the purposes of this chapter, *Tropilaelaps* infestation of the honey bee *Apis mellifera* L. is caused by the mite *Tropilaelaps clareae* and *T. koenigerum*. The mite is an ectoparasite of brood of *Apis mellifera* L., *Apis laboriosa* and *Apis dorsata*, and cannot survive for periods of more than 7 days away from bee brood.

Early signs of infection normally go unnoticed, but the growth in the mite population is rapid leading to high hive mortality. The infection spreads by direct contact from adult bee to adult bee, and by the movement of infested bees and bee brood. The mite can also act as a vector for viruses of the honey bee.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

#### Article 2.9.X.2.

The *Tropilaelaps* status of a country or zone/compartiment can only be determined after considering the following criteria:

- 1) a risk assessment has been conducted, identifying all potential factors for *Tropilaelaps* occurrence and their historic perspective;
- 2) *Tropilaelaps* infestation should be notifiable in the whole country or zone/compartiment and all clinical signs suggestive of *Tropilaelaps* infestation should be subjected to field and laboratory investigations;
- 3) an on-going awareness programme should be in place to encourage reporting of all cases suggestive of *Tropilaelaps* infestation;
- 4) the *Veterinary Administration* or other competent authority with responsibility for the health of honey bees should have current knowledge of, and authority over, all domesticated apiaries in the country.

#### Article 2.9.X.3.

#### **Country or zone/compartiment free from *Tropilaelaps* spp**

- 1) Historically free status

A country or zone/compartiment may be considered free from the disease after conducting a risk assessment as referred to in Article 2.9.X.2. but without formally applying a specific surveillance programme if the country or zone/compartiment complies with the provisions of Article 3.8.1.2.

- 2) Free status as a result of an eradication programme

A country or zone/compartiment which does not meet the conditions of point 1) above may be considered free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation after conducting a risk assessment as referred to in Article 2.9.X.2. and when:

- a) the *Veterinary Administration* or other competent authority with responsibility for the health of honey bees has current knowledge of, and authority over, all domesticated apiaries existing in the country or zone/compartment;
- b) *Tropilaelaps* infestation is notifiable in the whole country or zone/compartment, and any clinical cases suggestive of *Tropilaelaps* infestation are subjected to field and laboratory investigations;
- c) for the 3 years following the last reported case of *Tropilaelaps* infestation, an annual survey supervised by the *Veterinary Administration*, with negative results, have been carried out on a representative sample of apiaries in the country or zone/compartment to provide a confidence level of at least 95% of detecting *Tropilaelaps* infestation if at least 1% of the apiaries were infected at a within-apiary prevalence rate of at least 5% of the hives; such surveys may be targeted towards areas with a higher likelihood of infestation;
- d) to maintain free status, an annual survey supervised by the *Veterinary Administration*, with negative results, is carried out on a representative sample of apiaries in the country or zone/compartment to indicate that there has been no new cases; such surveys may be targeted towards areas with a higher likelihood of disease;
- e) there is no self-sustaining feral population of *A. mellifera*, *A. dorsata* or *A. laboriosa*, or other possible host species in the country or zone/compartment;
- f) the importation of the *commodities* listed in this Chapter into the country or zone/compartment is carried out, in conformity with the recommendations of this Chapter.

#### Article 2.9.X.4.

Regardless of the status of the *exporting country* with regard to *Tropilaelaps* infestation, *Veterinary Administrations* should authorise without restriction the import or transit through their territory of the following commodities:

- 1) honey bee semen, honey bee eggs and honey bee venom;
- 2) extracted honey and beeswax (not in the form of honeycomb).

#### Article 2.9.X.5.

*Veterinary Administrations* of *importing countries* should require:

for live queen honey bees, worker bees and drones with associated brood combs

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the bees come from a country or zone/compartment officially free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation.

#### Article 2.9.X.6.

*Veterinary Administrations* of *importing countries* should require:

for live queen honey bees, worker bees and drones without associated brood combs

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the bees have been held in isolation from brood and bees with access to brood, for a period of at least 7 days.

Article 2.9.X.7.

*Veterinary Administrations of importing countries* should require:

for used equipment associated with beekeeping

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the equipment:

- 1) comes from a country or zone/compartment free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation; or
- 2) contains no live honey bees or bee brood and has been held away from contact with live honey bees for at least 7 days prior to shipment; or
- 3) has been treated to ensure the destruction of *Tropilaelaps* spp., in conformity with one of the procedures referred to in Appendix XXX (under study).

Article 2.9.X.8.

*Veterinary Administrations of importing countries* should require:

for honey-bee collected pollen, beeswax (in the form of honeycomb), comb honey and propolis

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the products:

- 1) come from a country or zone/compartment free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation; or
- 2) contain no live honey bees or bee brood and has been held away from contact with live honey bees for at least 7 days prior to shipment; or
- 3) have been treated to ensure the destruction of *Tropilaelaps* spp., in conformity with one of the procedures referred to in Appendix XXX (under study).